

SUBJECT: **TREATMENT/TRANSPORT OF MINORS**

PURPOSE: To describe the guidelines for treatment and/or transport of a patient under the age of eighteen.

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code Section 124260
California Family Code 6922, 6925, 6926, 6927, 6929(, 7002, 7050, 7122, 7140
Business and Professions Code 2397

DEFINITIONS:

Emergency Medical Condition: Situation in which an individual has a need for immediate medical attention or where the potential for need is perceived by EMS personnel or a public safety agency.

Implied Consent: In the absence of a parent or legal representative, emergency treatment and/or transport of a minor may be initiated without consent.

Legal Representative: A person who is granted custody or conservatorship of another person by a court of law.

Minor: A person less than eighteen years of age.

Minor not requiring parental consent is a person who is:

1. Married or was previously married.
2. Not married and has an emergency medical condition and parent is not available.
3. On active duty with the Armed Forces.
4. Self-sufficient 15 years of age or older, living separate and apart from his/her parents, and managing his/her own financial affairs.
5. An emancipated minor with a declaration by the court or an identification card from the Department of Motor Vehicles.
6. Not married and requires care related to the treatment or prevention of pregnancy.
7. In need of care for sexual assault or rape.
8. Not married and seeking care related to an abortion.
9. 12 years of age or older and in need of care for communicable reportable disease, prevention of a sexually transmitted disease (STD), alcohol or substance abuse, or outpatient mental health.


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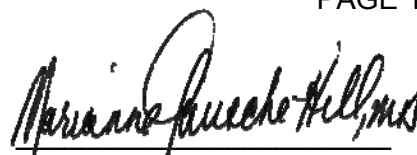
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SUPERSEDES: 12-10-08

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APPROVED:


Director, EMS Agency


Medical Director, EMS Agency

Voluntary Consent: Treatment or transport of a minor child shall be with the verbal or written consent of the parents or legal representative.

PROCEDURES:

I. Treatment/Transport of Minors

- A. In the absence of a parent or legal representative, minors with an emergency medical condition shall be treated and transported to the appropriate receiving facility or a specialty care center (e.g. EDAP, PMC, PTC, SART Center, Trauma Center, etc.).
- B. Hospital or provider agency personnel shall make every effort to inform a parent or legal representative where their child has been transported.
- C. If prehospital care personnel believe a parent or other legal representative of a minor is making a decision which appears to be endangering the health and welfare of the minor by refusing indicated immediate care or transport, law enforcement authorities should be involved.
- D. Infants \leq 12 months of age shall be transported, regardless of chief complaint and /or mechanism of injury, in accordance with Reference No. 808.

II. Minors **Not** Requiring Transport

- A. A minor child (excluding children \leq twelve (12) months of age) who is evaluated by EMS personnel and determined not to be injured, to have sustained only minor injuries, or to have illnesses or injuries not requiring immediate treatment or transportation, may be released to:
 - 1. Self (consideration should be given to age, maturity, environment and other factors that may be pertinent to the situation)
 - 2. Parent or legal representative
 - 3. A responsible adult at the scene
 - 4. Designated care giver
 - 5. Law enforcement
- B. Children 13 - 36 months of age require base hospital contact and/or transport, except isolated minor extremity injury, in accordance with Reference No. 808.
- C. Prehospital care personnel shall document on the EMS Report Form to whom the patient was released.

CROSS REFERENCE:

Prehospital Care Manual

Ref. No. 508, **Sexual Assault Patient Destination**

Ref. No. 508.1, **SART Center Roster**

Ref. No. 510, **Pediatric Patient Destination**

Ref. No. 808, **Base Contact and Transport Criteria**

Ref. No. 822, **Suspected Child Abuse Reporting Guidelines**

Ref. No. 834, **Patient Refusal of Treatment or Transport**